

Alethea Giles (Macquarie University) in the office of Rep. JERROLD NADLER of New York; Sana Nakata (Melbourne University) in the office of Rep. ALCEE HASTINGS of Florida; Yvonne Oberhollenzer (University of Queensland) in the office of Rep. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California; Lauren Reed (Deakin University) in the office of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, minority; Peita Richards (Macquarie University) in the office of the House Administration Committee, minority; Anthony Skews (Melbourne University) in the office of the House Science Committee, majority; Luke Toy (University of Canberra) in the office of Sen. CHRISTOPHER DODD of Connecticut; and, Ariella Webb (Melbourne University) in the office of the House Small Business Committee, majority.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to our Australian friends for their unbridled enthusiasm, tireless work ethic, and friendship over these past two months. The relationships we have forged here will last a lifetime, and it is my sincere hope that every congressional office partake in a similar endeavor.

#### HONORING FREDERICK DOUGLASS IN CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

##### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, in celebration of Black History Month, I would like to honor Frederick Douglass, a great advocate of human rights. The Caring Institute along with the National Park Service is celebrating the 187th birthday of Frederick Douglass with an event called "Honoring Frederick Douglass: A Celebration of Black History." The celebration was held at Ford's Theatre on February 14.

Frederick Douglass was born into slavery, and after eventually buying his freedom he went on to become a popular orator, author and publisher. He fought against discrimination of all types throughout his lifetime. Mr. Douglass played a great role in bringing about the abolition of slavery in America. He worked for women's rights as well, stating, "I would give women the vote, precisely as I insisted upon giving the colored man the right to vote. Right is of no sex—truth is of no color—God is the Father of us all and we are all brethren." Toward the end of his life, Mr. Douglass served as a recorder of deeds and marshal for the District of Columbia and also as an ambassador to Haiti.

I encourage my colleagues to remember this great man during this month honoring those who have played such an important part in our Nation's history.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, due to reasons beyond my control, I was unable to vote February 8 through February 10 of this year. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted on the following votes.

On rollcall vote No. 20 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 21 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 22 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 23 I would have voted "no," on rollcall vote No. 24 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 25 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 26 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 27 I would have voted "no," on rollcall vote No. 28 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 29 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 30 I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote No. 31 I would have voted "no."

#### INTRODUCTION OF BIKE COMMUTER ACT

##### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today, Congressman MARK FOLEY and I are introducing legislation to extend commuter benefits to bicyclists. This important legislation includes bicycles in the definition of transportation covered by the qualified transportation fringe benefit.

Currently, employers may offer a Transportation Fringe Benefit to their employees for commuting to work. Employees who take advantage of this program may receive a tax exemption benefit totaling \$200 for participating in qualified parking plans or \$105 for transit or van-pool expenses. Employees may also opt to take cash compensation instead, which is subject to employment taxes. The Bike Commuter Act would extend these same Transportation Fringe Benefits to employees who choose to commute by bicycle, eliminating the disincentive for this alternative mode of transportation.

It's time to level the playing field for bicycle commuters. Bicycling is one of the cleanest, healthiest, most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly modes of transportation that exist today. Nearly 500,000 Americans already ride their bicycles to work on a daily basis, and 52 percent of Americans want to bike more than they do. According to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, bicycles are second only to cars as a preferred mode of transportation, demonstrating their significant potential for commuter use. Many Americans own one or more bicycles, but limit their use to recreational purposes. At a time when communities across the country are seeking to reduce traffic congestion, improve air quality, increase the safety of their neighborhoods, and decrease petroleum dependence, bicycles offer a wonderful alternative to driving for the more than 50 percent of the working population who commute five miles or less to work. In addition, since the adoption of ISTEA in 1991, Federal spending on bicycle facilities and infrastructure has increased dramatically, contributing to a significant improvement in the bicycling environment in a variety of communities.

This legislation is an important step in making the Federal Government a better partner for more livable communities. The Federal Government should further support these goals by providing transportation benefits to people who choose to commute in a healthy,

environmental, efficient and neighborhood-friendly fashion.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JOYCE WILSON HARLEY, ESQ.

##### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of a woman I am proud to represent in Congress, Joyce Wilson Harley, Esq. Ms. Harley was recognized as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Leadership Award on February 15, 2005.

It is only fitting that Joyce Wilson Harley be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on Earth, for she has a long career of dedication to public service.

Joyce's recognition today as a recipient of the Essex County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Award is quite appropriate. As the first African American elected to the Board of Trustees for the Village of South Orange, Joyce has been a leader and a role model in the African-American community.

After completing her honors degree at the Douglass College of Rutgers University, Joyce went on to complete her Juris Doctorate at Rutgers Law School. In addition to serving as a Village Trustee in South Orange, Joyce was also elected Village President.

Prior to assuming her current position as Executive Director of the Newark Downtown District, Joyce has held numerous positions in the area of community and neighborhood development. One of her most prominent roles was during her tenure as the Executive Director of the New Jersey Multi City Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). Under her leadership, NJ LISC expanded its investment in the 14 municipalities it serves to twice its original size.

Ms. Harley's devotion to community development extends far beyond simply completing the task at hand. Her efforts were instrumental in the state of New Jersey implementing a Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Credit law. This law brings \$20 million in new investment in New Jersey's most distressed cities.

Beyond her post with the Newark Downtown District, Joyce also donates her time for other worthy projects. She is currently the president of the Board of Trustees of the Newark Emergency Services for Families. Ms. Harley is also a past president of the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, I am far from the first to recognize the outstanding contributions of Ms. Harley. In addition to receiving numerous awards for her work as the Director of Community Development for First Union and Fleet Banks, Joyce has also been recognized twice by the New Jersey State Legislature.

The New Jersey State Council on the Humanities awarded Joyce its first ever Civic Leadership award. In 2003 the Women in Support of the Million Man March awarded Joyce the coveted Community Relations award for her leadership in facilitating the receipt of financial assistance by community groups throughout the state in order to complete much needed neighborhood revitalization projects.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing the extraordinary efforts of individuals such as Ms. Harley. I ask that you join our colleagues, Joyce's family and friends, the County of Essex, New Jersey and me in honoring Joyce Wilson Harley, Esq. for her history of leadership and community service.

HONORING THOMAS C. FLEMING

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary contributions of Thomas C. Fleming, an icon in the history of African-American journalism. Tom has led a distinguished career as a print journalist for more than 70 years, working during the majority of that time for the African-American newspaper he co-founded in 1944, the San Francisco Sun-Reporter. On this date, the day before his 97th birthday, Tom will be recognized in a ceremony marking not only the renaming of the library at New College of California, East Bay in his honor, but also a lifetime of truly outstanding achievement and leadership within the black community as well as the journalistic profession.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Tom spent his early childhood years there with his grandmother, who he believes was a former slave. He then spent a brief period living in Harlem during the years leading up to World War I, before finally moving to Chico, California in 1919. Upon his graduation from Chico High School in 1926, Tom worked as a bellhop for the Admiral Line, and then as a cook for Southern Pacific Railroad before entering the field of journalism in the 1930s as an unpaid writer for the Spokesman, a progressive black newspaper in San Francisco. He soon returned to Chico, however, and studied political science at Chico State University for three semesters during the height of the Great Depression. He then returned to the Bay Area, where he worked briefly for the Oakland Tribune in 1934, making him the only black journalist to work for a daily newspaper on the West Coast.

In 1944, Tom became the founding editor of a San Francisco newspaper called the Reporter, which was soon merged with a paper owned by his closest friend, legendary civil rights leader Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett. The publication that emerged, the San Francisco Sun-Reporter, is still in print, and is one of the longest-running African-American newspapers in the country. During the civil rights movement, when many African-American publications struggled to find enough advertising money to keep them in business, Tom remained devoted to the black press, and became renowned for the work he did reporting on this era. Throughout the 53 years he spent writing for the Sun-Reporter, Tom met and shared the struggles of several historic figures in the black community, such as Langston Hughes, Malcolm X, Thurgood Marshall, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He also became well-known for writing a series of eighty columns entitled "Reflections on Black History,"

and for receiving the Career Achievement Award for Print from the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

Although Tom retired from writing full time for the Sun-Reporter in 1997, he still writes a column and editorials for the paper, in which he continues to be an advocate for truth, equality, and social justice. By remaining active in and dedicated to this work for over 70 years, Thomas Fleming has contributed immeasurably to Alameda County and the San Francisco Bay Area. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I salute and congratulate him for his many years of invaluable service.

HONORING MICHELLE GIANNETTA

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michelle Giannetta of Fresno, CA upon receiving the Champion of Hearts Award from the American Heart Association. Mrs. Giannetta will be presented with the Champion of Hearts Award at the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Luncheon on Thursday, February 17th, 2005 in Fresno, CA.

Michelle Giannetta is a true inspiration to us all. As an active volunteer for her local American Heart Association chapter, Michelle has offered her personal experience to help others recognize the risk of heart disease.

Young and athletic, Michelle received the shock of her life when she discovered she suffered from a rare heart condition. At the age of 28, Michelle endured a near fatal heart attack when the artery into her heart spontaneously dissected. It is the same rare heart condition that took the life of actor John Ritter.

After undergoing a grueling triple bypass operation, she remained under close watch in an intensive care unit, surviving with the aid of a balloon pump. Young and in peak physical condition, she realized that many, especially young women, need to understand the threat of heart disease.

Since then, Michelle has worked tirelessly to increase awareness of heart disease throughout her community. She serves on numerous committees of her local American Heart Association chapter and has helped to organize events, such as the Fresno Heart Walk, an offshoot of the American Heart Association's National Heart Walk, an event that occurs each year in some 600 cities and has raised more than \$406 million for research and educational programs. In addition, Michelle is a local spokeswoman for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign launched in February 2004.

In addition to her volunteer efforts, Michelle Giannetta continues to help others by serving in my Fresno congressional district office as a Staff Assistant, specializing in immigration matters.

Michelle, together with her husband Bret, have two sons, Alex and Matthew.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michelle Giannetta on the occasion of receiving the American Heart Association's Champions of Heart Award. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Michelle many more years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF "NO FEAR NO FUTURE" PROGRAM IN LAFAYETTE, LA

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of NO FEAR NO FUTURE: A Campaign Against Drinking and Driving. This very worthwhile program is sponsored by the Junior League of Lafayette, LA and is being presented today and tomorrow to the very distinguished students of Acadiana High School.

The purpose of this program is to promote responsible decisionmaking by high school students regarding drinking and driving. The program demonstrates how irresponsible decisions can end all dreams for both those who choose to drink and drive and those who end up being the innocent victims of those drivers. Too many families have been shattered because of irresponsibility, and it is my hope that this program can change the mindset of our young people and save lives.

I applaud the Junior League of Lafayette for taking an interest in bettering the lives of our future generations, and I applaud the students of Acadiana High School for taking it upon themselves to guarantee that their friends and classmates do not become a statistic. There are choices that every student will be faced with. My hope is that through this campaign, the bright students of Acadiana High School and of all schools throughout the 7th District, realize that drinking and driving is never an option. NO FEAR really does mean NO FUTURE.

CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 15, 2005*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, in mid-January China and Taiwan agreed to allow direct flights between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan during this year's Lunar New Year holidays. This agreement was considered a breakthrough in cross-strait relations and could signal the beginning of a thaw in relations. Unfortunately, we learned that in March this year Beijing will enact an anti-secession law, the intent of which is to force unification on Taiwan.

The anti-secession law assumes China's jurisdiction over Taiwan and gives China the right to invade Taiwan when and if China considers the invasion necessary. This law severely erodes Taiwanese people's goodwill for China. In recent years, Taiwanese businesses have invested as much as \$100 billion in China and have directly created the Chinese miracle of unprecedented economic growth and prosperity. Instead of reciprocating Taiwanese goodwill, China is now attempting to lay the legal groundwork for China's possible invasion of Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, it is now time for us to speak up against China's proposed anti-secession law. It is an unfriendly law against the Taiwanese people as well as a provocative law